

American Citizens Services
U.S. Interests Section-Havana

Weather Alert

This message expires on Friday, August 29, 2008

Date: 26 August 2008

Subject: Hurricane Gustav

This Warden Message is issued to alert American citizens residing in or traveling to Cuba that:

- Current tracking maps and weather forecasts indicate that Hurricane Gustav is moving toward the west-northwest from Haiti and may affect Cuba.
- The U.S. National Weather Service in Miami at 8 am Tuesday said that the center of Hurricane Gustav has made landfall on the Southwestern Peninsula of Haiti and about 190 miles, 310 km southeast of Guantanamo Cuba.
- Gustav is moving toward the northwest at 9 mph, 15 km/hr and is expected to move over southwestern Haiti later today and near eastern Cuba on Wednesday.
- The Government of Cuba has issued a Hurricane Warning for the provinces of Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba and Granma. A hurricane warning means that Hurricane conditions are expected within the warning area within 24 hours.
- A Hurricane Watch remains in effect for the Cuban provinces of for the Cuban provinces of Las Tunas and Holguin. A Hurricane Watch means that Hurricane conditions are possible within the watch area, generally within 36 hours.
- A hurricane warning is in effect from Barahona in the Dominican Republic westward to Le Mole St Nicholas Haiti. A hurricane watch remains in effect for Haiti from Le Mole St Nicholas to the northern Haiti/Dominican Republic border area. The Government of Jamaica has also issued a Hurricane watch for Jamaica.
- For up-to-date information on the storm's track, please monitor local television and radio news channels as well as the National Hurricane Center's website <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.
- The Interests Section recommends that all United States citizens in Cuba register with the Section's American Citizen Services Unit. Travelers can register their visit in person or on-line by visiting the Interests Section's website at <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov/>. The Interests Section is located in Havana at Calzada between L and M Streets, Vedado; telephone (537) 833-3551 through 833-3559. Hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. In case of an after hours emergency the duty officer can be reached at (53) 5 280-5791.
- The Interests Section will continue to monitor Hurricane Gustav's track, and will issue updated messages. U.S. citizens are urged to locate shelter, monitor media reports, and follow all official instructions. U.S. citizens should carry their travel documents at all times (e.g. U.S. Passport, Birth Certificate, picture ID's, etc.) or secure them in safe, waterproof locations. We also suggest that American citizens contact friends and family in the United States with updates about their whereabouts.

Additional information on hurricanes and storm preparedness may be found in the "Hurricane Season-Know Before You Go" pamphlet at:

http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/hurricane_season/hurricane_season_2915.html, and on the "Natural Disasters" page of the Bureau of Consular Affairs' website at:

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips/emergencies/emergencies_1207.html. Updated information on travel in Cuba may be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States and Canada, or from overseas, 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 am to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

Please continue to monitor the Embassy's website for updated information, <http://havana.usinterestsection.gov>. For further information please consult the Country Specific Information Sheet for Cuba, available via the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the Interests Section, Consular Section.

